

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Christopher J. Wheeler on April 4, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust-gas purifying apparatus, comprising:
a mantle;
a corrugated and substantially "W"-shaped support disposed in the mantle; and
a catalytic layer loaded on at least one of the surfaces of the support;
wherein the support comprises at least two support elements that are in contact with and are bonded to an inner peripheral surface of the mantle, the two support elements being disposed in the axial direction of the mantle, and the two support elements neighboring in the axial direction of the mantle being disposed out of phase with each other in the peripheral direction of the mantle; wherein the support comprise three or more support elements, and the three or more support elements are disposed in the mantle at predetermined intervals in the axial direction of the mantle and the three or more supports are disposed out of phase in the axial direction of the mantle.

2. (cancelled).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose or suggest at least three or more support elements are disposed in the mantle at predetermined intervals in the axial direction of the mantle and the three or more supports are disposed out of phase in the axial direction of the mantle in combination with the additional features recited therein.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TOM P. DUONG whose telephone number is (571)272-2794. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 4:30PM (IFP).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (571) 272-1444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1797

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Tom Duong
April 14, 2008

/Glenn A Caldarola/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 1797